

The O'Keefe Stevens Guide to Rochester

Welcome to our city!

We're so excited to have you join us for our annual Investor Forum at The Strong National Museum of Play on Wednesday, October 7th.

If you're traveling in from out of town (or if you're a local just looking for some new favorites), we've put together a list of our treasured local spots to help you make the most of your time in Rochester. Here are some of our team's favorite places to eat, explore, and enjoy the fall season.

Breakfast & Coffee Shops

Village Bakery & Café *(Recommended by Justin)*

If your ideal morning involves a delicious latte, something warm out of the oven, and a fresh breakfast sandwich for any craving, this is your spot. It's quietly charming and very Pittsford in the best way.

Neighborhood: Pittsford Village

Address: 5 State St, Pittsford, NY 14534

Highland Park Diner *(Recommended by Grace & Peter)*

A true Rochester classic. In this 1940s boxcar style diner, you'll find a vast assortment of breakfast dishes, from omelets and benedicts to challah French toast.

Neighborhood: South Wedge

Address: 960 S Clinton Ave, Rochester, NY 1462

Tip from Grace: Hop in the car for a quick drive over to Highland Park after your meal (see "Things to Do" section).

Simply Crepes *(Recommended by Dominick & Marissa)*

A cozy yet polished breakfast option where you can convince yourself ordering a crepe is a balanced meal. Great for both sweet and savory.

Neighborhood: Pittsford Village

Address: 7 Schoen Pl, Pittsford, NY 14534

Jines Restaurant *(Recommended by Marissa)*

A Park Avenue staple that always feels busy in a reassuring way. Big menu, quick service, and a solid choice when no one can decide what they want.

Neighborhood: Park Avenue

Address: 658 Park Ave, Rochester, NY 14607

Java's Café *(Recommended by Kellan & DeAnna)*

Equal parts coffee shop and Rochester institution. Slightly eclectic, very cozy, and ideal if you want to sit with a coffee and enjoy the bustle of this cafe.

Neighborhood: East End / Downtown

Address: 16 Gibbs St, Rochester, NY 14604

Lunch Spots

Dinosaur Bar-B-Que *(Recommended by Kellan, Dominick, & Justin)*

If you're in the mood for something hearty, this is the go-to. Think brisket, ribs, and a lively atmosphere right in downtown Rochester.

Neighborhood: Downtown

Address: 99 Court St, Rochester, NY 14604

Fattoush Restaurant *(Recommended by Grace)*

Highly recommended for fresh, flavorful Mediterranean dishes and cloud-like pita bread that somehow feel both light and incredibly satisfying. A must-visit if you're a fan of Mediterranean cuisine.

Neighborhood: Pittsford

Address: 5 Main St, Pittsford, NY 14534

Umai Revolving Sushi *(Recommended by Marissa)*

A unique and interactive dining experience where sushi is delivered to you on a conveyer belt, and the drinks are delivered by a robot. Great for a quick but entertaining lunch.

Neighborhood: Pittsford

Address: 2833 Monroe Ave, Rochester NY, 14618

SEA Restaurant *(Recommended by Deanna)*

A fun, vibrant Vietnamese spot with a variety of Pho to warm you up on a chilly fall day. Great if you want something different and memorable.

Neighborhood: East End / Downtown

Address: 741 Monroe Ave, Rochester, NY 14607

Monte Alban Mexican Grill *(Recommended by Carly)*

Casual, reliable, and perfect when you're craving something flavorful and quick between plans.

Neighborhood: Irondequoit

Address: 845 E Ridge Rd, Rochester, NY 14621

Dinner

Vern's *(Recommended by Grace & Dominick)*

A favorite for many reasons. Delicious homemade pastas, great atmosphere, tasty cocktails, and one of the best overall dining experiences in the city right now. The kind of place where everything feels intentional.

Neighborhood: Park Avenue

Address: 696 Park Ave, Rochester, NY 14607

Redd *(Recommended by Deanna)*

One of the more elevated dining experiences in Rochester. A contemporary take on wine-country cuisine, great service, and a Michelin-starred chef. What's not to like?

Neighborhood: Neighborhood of the Arts / Downtown

Address: 24 Winthrop St, Rochester, NY 14607

Black & Blue Steak & Crab *(Recommended by Marissa)*

Classic steakhouse feel with a polished edge. Ideal when you're in the mood for a more traditional, upscale dinner.

Neighborhood: Pittsford

Address: 3349 Monroe Ave, Rochester, NY 14618

Ferrari Pizza Bar *(Recommended by Kellan)*

A no-frills, local favorite that proves great pizza doesn't need to be complicated. Perfect for a relaxed, low-key dinner or a late-night slice after a busy day.

Neighborhood: East Rochester

Address: 349 W Commercial St, East Rochester, NY 14445

Dorado *(Recommended by Justin)*

A Park Ave favorite with a fun, modern take on Mexican cuisine. Just a few doors down from Vern's, it's the perfect spot to pop in for a margarita, featuring one of Rochester's largest tequila selections.

Neighborhood: Park Avenue

Address: 690 Park Ave, Rochester, NY 14607

Things to Do

Memorial Art Gallery *(Recommended by Dominick & Justin)*

A beautifully curated museum that's easy to explore in an afternoon. A great mix of classic and contemporary.

Neighborhood: Neighborhood of the Arts

Address: 500 University Ave, Rochester, NY 14607

Wickham Farms *(Recommended by Carly)*

Peak Upstate NY fall energy—pumpkins, apple picking, fresh cider, and everything you'd want from an October afternoon. A great fall pick for both children and adults.

Neighborhood: Penfield

Address: 1315 Sweets Corners Rd, Penfield, NY 14526

Rochester Public Market *(Recommended by Marissa & Deanna)*

A weekend staple. Come early, grab a coffee, and prepare to leave with more than you planned. A market worth experiencing, especially in the fall.

Neighborhood: Market District

Address: 280 N Union St, Rochester, NY 14609

Schutt's Apple Mill *(Recommended by Deanna)*

A classic fall stop for fresh cider, award winning fried cakes, and homegrown apples.

Neighborhood: Webster

Address: 1063 Plank Rd, Webster, NY 14580

Seneca Park Zoo *(Recommended by Peter)*

A great option for a relaxed afternoon, especially if you're traveling with family. The zoo is well-maintained, easy to walk, and set along the Genesee River.

Neighborhood: Irondequoit

Address: 2222 St Paul St, Rochester, NY 14621

Highland Park *(Recommended by Peter & Kellan)*

One of the best places in the city to take in fall foliage. Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted (designer of NYC's Central Park), it's perfect for a peaceful autumn stroll.

Neighborhood: South Rochester

Address: 171 Reservoir Ave, Rochester, NY 14620

Canal Stroll & Pittsford Dairy *(Recommended by Grace)*

Easy, scenic, and relaxing. Walk the historic canal, stroll the variety of boutiques, and reward yourself after with a sweet treat at the Pittsford Dairy.

Neighborhood: Pittsford

Address: 44 N Main St, Pittsford, NY 14534 (Pittsford Dairy)

For additional parking, there's public parking behind the Del Monte Hotel and Spa, located across the street from Pittsford Dairy, or throughout Schoen Place along the canal.